

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Finance Committee

April 8, 2009

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Time – 7:00 P.M.

Members in attendance: Chairman Joanne F. Marden, Tim Felter, S. Jon Stumpf, Cindy Milne, Richard T. Howe, Mark Merritt, Paul Fortier and Stephen Stapinski.

Also present: Anthony J. Torrasi, Finance Director

### **MINUTES APPROVAL**

It was moved and seconded to recommend approval of the following meeting minutes:

- A. February 11, 2009 – Passed unanimously 8-0 with corrections
- B. February 23, 2009 – Passed unanimously 8-0 with corrections
- C. February 25, 2009 – Passed unanimously as written 8-0
- D. March 2, 2009 – Passed unanimously as written 8-0
- E. March 4, 2009 – Passed unanimously as written 8-0

### **LETTERS TO LEGISLATORS**

Mr. Howe distributed draft letters addressed to Representative Finegold, Senator Susan Tucker and Representative L'Italien for committee review and approval. Content of the letters expressed concern by Committee members over what impact reduction in state aid could have on town services. After some discussion, Mr. Howe agreed to make changes to the letters as recommended by committee members for their final signatures.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **TOWN ACCOUNTANT FINANCIAL REPORT**

It was noted that FY2009 Estimated Receipts were down by approximately \$128,000 from FY2008. Mr. Torrasi explained that was due to an injury suffered by a police officer last year.

Licenses & Permits – Committee members asked why total percentages collected were down from the previous year. Mr. Torrasi explained that it was due to a decrease in building permits. Concern was voiced over the possibility of a more than \$600,000 budget shortfall in revenues. Ms. Marden stated to Committee members the importance of addressing the Town's serious spending issues prior to Town Meeting.

### **WARRANT ARTICLES**

- A. Town Yard Master Plan - \$30,000

Ms. Marden expressed concern over this article being put forth prematurely. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding timing of this article as well as possible options for the property in question. Tim Felter moved and Jon Stumpf seconded to recommend approval of Article P-27 Town Yard Master Plan. The motion passed 7-1-0.

B. Repairs to Private Ways

Tim Felter moved and Dick Howe seconded to recommend approval of Article P-51 Repairs to Private Ways. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

C. Revolving Accounts

Ms. Marden informed committee members that some revolving account numbers had been amended higher since their last vote. After a brief discussion, Tim Felter moved and Dick Howe seconded to ratify the Committee's previous yes vote for P-14 Revolving Accounts. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

D. Water System Supply Improvements

After a brief discussion, Stephen Stapinski moved and Mark Merritt seconded to recommend approval for Article P-25 Water System Supply Improvements for the amount of \$250,000. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

**BUDGET ISSUES**

Ms. Marden asked committee members where they stand as a committee regarding the Town Manager's Budget. After lengthy discussion, committee members agreed they were comfortable with the Town Manager's Budget if not less, especially in light of an expected shortfall in revenue collections.

**NEXT MEETING**

Joint Board Meeting  
Wednesday, April 13, 2009

Finance Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, April 15, 2009  
6:00 P.M.

Tri Board Meeting  
Thursday, April 16, 2009

Finance Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, April 22, 2009  
7:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT – 10:05 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Carolyn Lynch*  
Recording Secretary